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A
E P I T A P H

ON THE LATE ILLUSTRIOUS

Earl of CHATHAM

He was a *Man*, take him for *all in all*,
I ne'er shall look upon his *like* again.

Shake. Hamlet

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This Epitaph is enter'd at Stationer's-Hall.



To the right hon. WILLIAM PITT, Esq.

S I R

I have taken the liberty of dedicating to you an EPITAPH, written many years ago, on your immortal Father, who was incontestably the wisest, ablest, and most disinterested Statesman this Island ever produc'd.

The great talents, which you have display'd in so *early* a stage of life, afford the pleasing hope, that the political Abilities of the late Earl of CHATHAM have lineally descended to the present CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer.

Instead of the usual panegyric of a Dedicator, I beg leave, with the greatest humility, to offer the friendly Intimations of a Well-wisher. Have always in view the *example* of your incomparable Father. Let *that* be the Star to direct your ministerial Course. Nay even imagine his venerable Shade hovering o'er you, to superintend with paternal solicitude your public conduct. Your abilities are unquestionably very extensive, your

iv DEDICATION.

address is engaging, and your *private character* truly-amiable; yet even these united ornaments could not have rais'd you to such a height in public esteem, if you had not been so *nearly* allied to ONE, whose memory will be always dear to every lover of the *British* constitution.

As the *Son* of the illustrious Earl of CHATHAM, you stand upon elevated ground. I therefore humbly hope you will not deem me impertinent, in reminding you of the advice given to the young ROMAN, whose Father, like *yours*, was an honour to his Country.

“ Thou must take heed :

“ The World has all its eyes on CATO'S Son.

“ Thy Father's Merit sets thee up to view,

“ And shews thee in the fairest point of light,

“ To make thy *Virtues*, or thy *Faults* conspicuous.”

ADDISON.

That you may follow the example of your illustrious Father, that *your* name, like *his*, may become immortal, is the sincere wish of,

S I R,

Your most devoted,

And most obedient Servant,

31st March, 1784.

The AUTHOR.



E P I T A P H.

Here continue,
Insensibly to mingle with their original dust,
The sacred remains of a
Patriotic,
Disinterested,
And Incorruptible *Statesman* ;
Who was the Terror of FRANCE,
The Admiration of EUROPE,
The Delight and Glory of the *British* Empire.

From his first appearance in the Senate
To the last stage of human existence,
He constantly maintain'd
The most inviolable attachment
To the Welfare, and Liberties
Of his native Country.

He

He was affable without duplicity,
Generous without ostentation,
Popular without vanity.

To the most able, and intuitive *Head*
Nature liberally join'd
The most noble, and intrepid *Heart*.

By a diligent study
Of *British* History and Laws,
He enrich'd his mind with a complete knowledge
Of the *British* Constitution.

Whenever he pleaded
The Cause of Liberty and his Country,
Such a happy flow of words,
Such a rapid succession of ideas,
Such a convincing solidity of argument
Invigorated his elocution,
That he seem'd really inspir'd
With the divine *Furor* of a DEMOSTHENES,
And the oratorical talents of a CICERO.

In all his endeavors to promote the public weal
Justice was his guide.

Neither

Neither Partiality, private Pique,
Nor the desire of popularity

Had the least influence
On his senatorial deportment ;

But he concur'd with, or oppos'd
Parliamentary proceedings,

As he found them intentionally plann'd
For the welfare or oppression of his Country.

Whether engag'd, or unemploy'd
In an official capacity,

He uniformly preserv'd
The distinguish'd character of a *true* Patriot.

In the close of that shameful year
Wherein, among other political miscarriages,

MINORCA,

That barrier to *Eastern* commerce

Was most ingloriously lost,

Through the Indolence, Treachery, or Mismanagement

Of an ignorant, or inattentive administration

Which had almost brought to the brink

Of irretrievable ruin

A *dispirited* Empire.

When

When the Glory of the *British* name
 Had almost expir'd
 In a fit of *national* despondency,
 This illustrious Patriot was appointed
 To the Guidance of public affairs.

In this elevated station
 He strenuously exerted his great abilities,
 In reforming the abuses
 Of the late administration.
 He labour'd to revive
 That necessary, but neglected Virtue,
 The *Promotion of Merit*
 In the Naval, Military, and Official line;
 Without which all Empires, however potent,
 Must feel a gradual decline
 Of Power, and national Importance.

He endeavour'd to reduce
 The oppressive Hire and Number
 Of Placemen, and Pensioners;
 And seem'd, by his *own* disinterested example,
 To inculcate the propriety,

And

And necessity of the Maxim,
That Virtue should be its *own* reward
In public, as well as in private life.

His patriotic endeavours
For the Welfare & Glory of the *British* Empire,
Exasperated the whole tribe
Of dependent Cormorants.
The utmost rancour, that Envy could invent,
Was industriously employ'd
To lower his Popularity,
To undermine his interest with his Sovereign,
And to baffle those measures, he had plann'd
For the deliverance of his Country
From Oppression, national Disgrace,
And the impending danger of *Gallic* bondage.

Thus counteracted, or oppos'd
In his intended operations,
He found himself incapable
Of carrying into vigorous execution
The spirited hostilities, design'd
To humble the pride of aspiring FRANCE,
And to restore the glory of the *British* name.

After an unsuccessful struggle of four months
To accomplish these great ends,
On the third day of April, 1757,
He Resign'd;
Universally lamented,
Universally applauded
By every sincere Lover of his King & Country.

He had not long remain'd in private life
Till his august Sovereign,
And the united Voice of a *British* people
Recall'd him to ministerial employment.

When re-instated in office,
And invested with *necessary* power,
He gave the most convincing proofs
Of his great abilities, and intrepid spirit.
In forming hostile designs,
Which, on a slight view, appear'd
Impracticable.

So uninterrupted a Series of success
Crown'd his well-concerted plans,
That OLD ENGLAND was rais'd by his administration
To the top of glory's pinnacle.

In

In whatever quarter of the Globe
 She display'd her banners as a sign of hostility,
 To attack was to conquer.

When rising generations shall peruse
 The annals of that glorious Æra,
 In which this illustrious minister
 Was intrusted with the Guidance of public affairs,
 The wonderful successes of BRITANNIA's arms,
 And the rapidity of her conquests
 Will have a greater appearance
 Of naval, and military romance,
 Than of truth's impartial record.

When this disinterested Patriot had rais'd
 The *British* name to a height of renown
 Unknown to preceding ages,
 And had reduc'd the naval power of FRANCE
 To the last extremity;
 He obtain'd authentic intelligence
 That a FAMILY-COMPACT had been ratified
 By the *Gallic*, and *Iberian* Courts,
 This alarming event

B 2

He

He communicated to his youthful Sovereign,
And strongly urg'd in Council
The indispenfible neceffity
Of declaring War againft Spain,
Or of fending a Fleet to intercept
The annual F L O T A,
That Source of her wealth,
And chief bulwark of her Monarchy.

This important advice
Was, by a fatality too-frequent in Cabinets,
Unfortunately over-rul'd;
On which its patriotic author,
With a magnanimity
Becoming his exalted character,
On the fifth day of October, 1761,
Refign'd;
Leaving his fucceffors in power
To terminate, by an honourable & lafting peace,
That War,
Which his wife, and laborious adminiftration
Had conducted with fuch aftonifhing fuccels, & glory
To his King and Country.

His

His hasty resignation
Was maliciously represented
As the effect of arrogance, and self-sufficiency:
But he fully refuted such calumny
By a public declaration,
That he relinquish'd his office,
Because he would not be *responsible* for measures,
Of which he was depriv'd the Guidance.

In consideration of his great services,
BRITANNIA'S amiable Monarch
Ennobled him with the title of
Earl of CHATHAM.

Three months had scarce elaps'd,
Till the succeeding administration
Were under the mortifying necessity
Of adopting *that wise advice*, they had *sighted*.
They declared War against Spain,
And carried into execution the plan,
Concerted by this great Statesman, for the reduction
Of MARTINICO,
In which they happily succeeded.

So

So extensive was Lord CHATHAM's fame,
 That, during his retirement,
 Every Foreigner of distinction,
 Who visited the *English* metropolis,
 Most eagerly coveted the honour
 Of an occasional introduction to *that* Peer,
 Whose astonishing abilities,
 And unparallel'd disinterestedness
 Had render'd him the object
 Of universal admiration.

In his latter stage of life
 BRITAIN sensibly felt the want of his Counsels.
 The numerous inveterate attacks
 Of that excruciating disorder, the Gout,
 Frequently made his Home his Prison,
 And more frequently prevented his appearance
 In that *august* assembly,
 Of which he was so conspicuous an ornament.

His last effort to serve his Country,
 In a senatorial capacity,
 Was alone sufficient to immortalize his name.

On

On that memorable day, appointed
For the discussion of a question
Of the utmost national importance,
The united entreaties of his family and friends
Could not possibly dissuade him
From parliamentary attendance.
He was carried into the house of Lords
So crippled, enfeebled, and emaciated
By his arthritic disease,
That, instead of the appearance
Of an animated Orator,
He presented the moving spectacle
Of a human Being, surcharg'd
With complicated malady.

In that grand debate

He spoke with such peculiar energy,
That the thunder of his eloquence
Seem'd even to shake the walls of the Senate.

His Exertions were too powerful
For his debilitated frame :
Nature sunk beneath the Shock.

He seemingly expired,
Alarm'd the sympathizing Peers,

And

And was, not without difficulty, restor'd.

To Respiration;

But the *death-stroke*, he had receiv'd,

Baffled every medical attempt

To preserve his valuable life.

He linger'd a few days,

Then fell a glorious and voluntary sacrifice!

In the cause of his Country.

Reader,

If thou art an admirer of exalted characters,

And a true Lover of the *British* name,

Gratitude must lead thee

To a veneration of the memory

Of the right honourable, and *truly illustrious*

WILLIAM, Earl of CHATHAM.